Pat Quinn, Governor Marc Miller, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 8, 2010

NATURAL

CONTACTS: Chris McCloud (217) 785-0075 Januari Smith (217) 558-1544

Hunters in Illinois Harvest 98,700 Deer During Firearm Season

Deer hunting continues with archery and upcoming gun seasons

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary total of 98,700 deer during the sevenday firearm deer season on Nov. 19-21 and Dec. 2-5, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) announced today. A total of 99,419 deer were taken during the 2009 firearm season.

The preliminary second-season (Dec. 2-5) harvest total was 30,663, compared with the 33,293 deer taken by hunters during the second segment of the season in 2009. This year's preliminary first-season (Nov. 19-22) deer harvest was 68,037, compared with a first-season harvest of 66,126 in 2009. The preliminary harvest totals include deer taken in all counties in which firearm deer hunting is permitted, as well as at Chain O'Lakes State Park in Lake County.

"Harvest results for this year's firearm deer seasons were remarkably similar to last year," said IDNR Forest Wildlife Program Manager Paul Shelton. "Fifty-one counties saw increases in harvest, while 49 counties declined. Management efforts aimed at controlling deer herds while maintaining recreational opportunities are paying off."

Preliminary reports show that Pike County once again topped the county deer harvest totals for the firearm season as hunters took 3,130 deer. Other top county harvest totals were Fulton (2,495), Adams (2,468), Jo Daviess (2,285) and Randolph (2,192).

Deer hunters in Illinois still have opportunities to take to the field in the coming weeks. The archery deer season continues through Jan. 16, 2011. The three-day Illinois muzzleloader-only deer season is this week (Dec. 10-12), while the seven-day split late-winter firearm antlerless-only deer season and special CWD deer season are Dec. 30, 2010-Jan. 2, 2011 and Jan. 14-16, 2011.

Permits for both late-winter and special CWD seasons will be available over the counter through

DNR Direct license and permit agents beginning Dec. 14.

Permits for the late-winter season will be issued in two categories based on deer management needs in individual counties. For 12 select counties with a need for significant increases in deer harvest, hunters will be able to purchase late-winter permits without limit. In 58 other counties open for the late-winter season, hunters will be limited to purchasing one late-winter deer permit. There are 27 counties closed for the late-winter season.

As in years past, unfilled 2010 firearm, muzzleloader, youth and landowner firearm permits will be valid for the late-winter season provided that they were issued for an open county, but only antlerless deer may be taken. For more information, please visit http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Pages/ResidentLateWinterAntlerlessDeerHunting.aspx. Successful hunters should report their harvest by 10 p.m. on the same calendar day the deer was taken by calling 1-866-452-4325 (1-866-ILCHECK) or by accessing the online check-in system at www.dnr.state.il.us/vcheck.

Hunters in Boone, DeKalb, McHenry and Winnebago Counties and a portion of Kane County west of IL Rt. 47 can participate in the seven-day special CWD deer season on Dec. 30, 2010-Jan. 2, 2011 and Jan. 14-16, 2011 to help control deer densities and the spread of chronic wasting disease. Special CWD season antierless-only permits will be available beginning Dec. 14 over the counter for \$5.50 each at participating DNR Direct license and permit vendors. In addition, hunters with unfilled 2010 firearm, muzzleloader, youth firearm deer season or archery deer permits valid for one of the open counties may use those permits to hunt during the CWD season. Hunters using unfilled permits from the 20010 firearm, muzzleloader, youth or archery season for the CWD hunt may take deer appropriate for that permit (antierless-only or either-sex). There will be no manned check stations during CWD season. As in the late-winter season, harvest must be reported via telephone or online. Successful hunters are encouraged to have any adult deer tested for CWD by taking it to a cooperating meat processor.

The table below includes preliminary county harvest totals for the first and second portions of the 2010 firearm deer season, the preliminary total firearm harvest for 2010 and county harvest totals for 2009.

	2010 First	2010 Second	2010	2009
County	Season	Season	Total	Total
Adams	1741	727	2468	2480
Alexander	296	214	510	560
Bond	535	220	755	843
Boone	90	44	134	155
Brown	892	416	1308	1478
Bureau	1024	394	1418	1283
Calhoun	668	433	1101	1382
Carroll	756	270	1026	1027
Cass	458	224	682	727

	2010 First	2010 Second	2010	2009
County	Season	Season	Total	Total
Champaign	219	98	317	286
Christian	459	190	649	604
Clark	940	389	1329	1328
Clay	947	419	1366	1316
Clinton	588	204	792	808
Coles	560	214	774	703
Crawford	819	360	1179	1160
Cumberland	641	243	884	887
DeKalb	157	67	224	215
DeWitt	283	128	411	391
Douglas	131	67	198	188
Edgar	565	251	816	771
Edwards	325	163	488	510
Effingham	774	255	1029	1028
Fayette	1264	492	1756	1907
Ford	101	28	129	113
Franklin	820	401	1221	1204
Fulton	1721	774	2495	2616
Gallatin	402	210	612	640
Greene	986	453	1439	1384
Grundy	300	160	460	402
Hamilton	812	384	1196	1306
Hancock	1291	668	1959	1950
Hardin	696	307	1003	1059
Henderson	449	175	624	597
Henry	545	249	794	698
Iroquois	502	229	731	653
Jackson	1502	677	2179	2153
Jasper	861	356	1217	1245
Jefferson	1475	709	2184	2379
Jersey	625	315	940	938
JoDaviess	1640	645	2285	2281
Johnson	1202	502	1704	1771
Kane	37	23	60	55
Kankakee	151	81	232	207
Kendall	53	43	96	97
Knox	1021	532	1553	1430
Lake	5	0	5	10
LaSalle	878	389	1267	1144

	2010 First	2010 Second	2010	2009
County	Season	Season	Total	Total
Lawrence	399	192	591	669
Lee	531	202	733	669
Livingston	454	187	641	483
Logan	285	153	438	395
Macon	200	130	330	316
Macoupin	1192	541	1733	1736
Madison	651	237	888	939
Marion	1276	553	1829	1998
Marshall	569	205	774	761
Mason	439	161	600	643
Massac	402	282	684	657
McDonough	738	351	1089	1109
McHenry	191	101	292	377
McLean	550	229	779	672
Menard	334	133	467	447
Mercer	674	301	975	871
Monroe	722	273	995	1087
Montgomery	820	308	1128	1191
Morgan	626	303	929	1093
Moultrie	232	106	338	291
Ogle	742	343	1085	1108
Peoria	1074	484	1558	1513
Perry	823	417	1240	1345
Piatt	127	74	201	194
Pike	1957	1173	3130	3265
Pope	1294	418	1712	1769
Pulaski	466	292	758	724
Putnam	355	141	496	558
Randolph	1520	672	2192	2256
Richland	545	265	810	878
Rock Island	591	305	896	914
Saline	720	346	1066	962
Sangamon	569	269	838	830
Schuyler	1130	526	1656	1685
Scott	377	211	588	559
Shelby	1012	399	1411	1442
St. Clair	662	240	902	922
Stark	261	100	361	306
Stephenson	789	303	1092	936

	2010 First	2010 Second	2010	2009
County	Season	Season	Total	Total
Tazewell	514	198	712	735
Union	1162	518	1680	1761
Vermilion	609	268	877	823
Wabash	194	119	313	310
Warren	429	214	643	610
Washington	799	353	1152	1172
Wayne	1210	594	1804	1888
White	662	360	1022	1043
Whiteside	627	222	849	771
Will	208	149	357	362
Williamson	1110	554	1664	1625
Winnebago	307	120	427	447
Woodford	700	276	976	933
Total	68037	30663	98700	99419